

ALTHOUGH showing a considerable improvement on recent performances, Wycombe Wanderers went out of the third round of the Hitachi League Cup on Tuesday night when Leatherhead gave them an exemplary lesson in how to score goals.

Wycombe must have had more than 60 per cent of the play and created numerous chances, only one of which they put away. Leatherhead created a handful of attacks and scored twice through Steve Camp.

Nevertheless Andy Williams must have been pleased with the effort expended by his side and by the fact that at least they have started to create some openings — for the first time for more than a month.

There was a certain fire instilled into the Wycombe players for this match and they committed more fouls than one has come to expect from them. This, in a sense, is a welcome sign for it shows that they have recovered their total commitment which has appeared to be lacking in recent encounters.

This positive mood showed itself right from the kick-off. The ball was played immediately up the left side where Steve Long

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Leatherhead 2

Report by MICHAEL KNOX

and Terry Scott had run into forward positions. Scott set Long away and his cross forced an instant corner.

Scott sent a long corner to the far post where Steve Hardwick's fine header brought a diving save out of former England amateur goalkeeper John Swannell.

This was the sort of play local fans had been waiting for but they were silenced in the eighth minute when Leatherhead snatched the lead. Chris Kelly's inswinging corner to the near post was headed home by Camp who rose above the defence.

Leatherhead sprayed the ball about in their economical style and looked set to give Blues the run-around. But they were hampered when Billy Salkeld had to leave the field with an ankle injury. He was replaced by a former Wanderer Ray Eaton who now sports a beard.

This seemed to upset Leatherhead's rhythm, and the home side gradually came more into the game with their defenders joining in the attacks to good effect.

Garry Fowles playing at left back, looked, as though he thoroughly enjoyed coming forward and it was his header from a corner that forced Colin

Brooks to clear off the line just before half-time.

Even at this stage the Tanners' defence did not look all that secure against Wycombe's high speed attacks. Scott enjoyed his best game of the season while Mick Holifield was a constant threat on the left flank.

PRESSURE

This improvement continued after the break when the Leatherhead goal came under intense pressure. Twice the ball was scrambled away in goalmouth melees and Howard Kennedy fired inches wide following a corner.

This pressure just had to bring a goal — and it did in the 52nd minute. It all started with a brilliant run from Holifield whose elusive play took him on a guided tour of the visitors penalty area.

He eventually found an opening to shoot. Swannell could only parry the ball straight into the path of Kennedy who netted from three yards much to the delight of the home crowd.

For a while after the goal Wycombe looked like taking the game by the scruff of the neck. Long was back to his best while there was no stopping Holifield.

But then a moment of indeci-

sion at the back cost them the game. Wycombe's defence had moved up to half-way, when Alan Phillips gave the ball away. Camp sprinted upfield, with the defence streaming back, before placing his shot past the advancing Spittle.

This was the signal for a determined Wycombe onslaught. Holifield, Stewart Atkins and Scott all went desperately close to scoring in the closing stages but the ball just would not bounce kindly for them and it was a slightly lucky Leatherhead who progressed to the next round.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, G. Fowles, S. Hardwick, A. Phillips, J. Priestley, S. Atkins, M. Holifield, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Scott. Sub: D. Evans (not used).

LEATHERHEAD: J. Swannell; J. Cooper, C. Brooks, B. Davies, D. Reid, D. Malley, M. Cook, W. Salkeld (sub: R. Eaton 17 mins), C. Kelly, J. Baker, S. Camp.

Referee: J. Martin (Leamington). **Half-time** 0-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe-Kennedy (52 mins); Leatherhead-Camp (48.50).

Squash defeats

TWO local squash clubs were beaten 5-0 in the first round of the National Ladies Club Championship for the Banbury Trophy. Wycombe Hills went down to Wokingham while Farnham Common lost to Weston Manor. Both losers automatically qualify for the Banbury Plate.

PALACE FIELD BEST SIDE

LOCAL football fans have a chance to see the most exciting young side in the country on Monday night when Crystal Palace come to Loakes Park to play Wycombe Wanderers in a friendly.

The match is part of the deal made when Steve Perrin joined Palace from Wycombe three years ago. Perrin has since joined Plymouth, but every effort is being made to get him to the game.

Another condition of the agreement was that Palace bring down their full first team squad, and that is something manager Terry Venables is doing.

So young starlets such as Kenny Sansom, rated the best young full-back in the Football League, and exciting striker Vince Hilaire will be on view. Dave Swindlehurst, Nick Chatterton and Steve Kember are other star names in action, while John Burridge is in goal.

However injury has ruled out defenders Paul Hinshelwood and Ian Evans. This game will provide welcome relief for Wycombe from their current moderate league form, and they should be able to play some relaxed football.

During the match there will be a collection for the Sharon Flanagan fund, for the young Wycombe girl who has gone to the U.S. for a brain operation.

CARSHALTON TRIP

Before that Palace match, however, Wycombe have other matters to attend to. Tomorrow (Saturday) they visit Carshalton in a Berger Isthmian League Premier Division encounter.

They were scheduled to meet Woking, but the Surrey side won their F.A. Trophy replay against Waterlooville on Monday and will now be involved in a second round match tomorrow.

So Wycombe must concentrate on gaining revenge over Carshalton, who caused one of the upsets of the season three weeks ago when they came to Loakes Park and won 2-0 for their first league victory of the season.

Since then Carshalton have gone on to gain two more victories, including one over the high riding Leatherhead. So they could prove quite a handful on their War Memorial Ground.

There were signs of a revival in Wycombe's fortunes even though they lost to Leatherhead on Tuesday night, and they will be hoping to continue that improvement.

Blues must hit top form soon with their F.A. Cup first round tie at Maidstone only a fortnight away.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

(Up to Nov 4)						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Enfield	21	15	3	5	37	19 42
Leatherhead	20	12	2	6	37	18 38
Croydon	19	10	5	4	30	16 35
Hendon	20	9	8	5	31	27 33
Dulwich	16	9	5	2	31	13 32
Dagenham	19	10	2	7	33	30 32
Barking	16	9	4	3	39	26 31
Wycombe	20	8	8	6	28	19 30
Walthamstow	19	9	3	7	28	21 30
Slough	17	8	4	5	18	14 28
Tooting	22	7	7	8	26	25 28
Itchen	18	8	3	7	25	29 27
Boreham Wd	18	6	4	7	23	27 25
Woking	16	6	5	5	29	25 23
Tilbury	19	6	4	9	29	42 22
Sutton	19	5	4	8	22	26 19
Stratford	20	4	7	9	24	35 19
Carshalton	19	3	9	7	27	31 18
Oxford	19	5	3	11	21	42 18
Hayes	20	3	8	9	20	33 17
Kingston	16	2	4	10	13	29 10
Leistonstone	16	1	2	13	11	33 5